Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship Biology 2023

Performance standard 93101

General commentary

Successful candidates critically analysed the three questions and resource material provided, and integrated this with relevant biological ideas across a range of contexts.

Candidates who demonstrated broad biological knowledge and a deep understanding of biological ideas successfully used and defined appropriate terminology and justified their ideas, supported by examples.

Successful candidates wrote concise, well-structured responses that demonstrated insight and that addressed all parts of the questions.

Report on performance standard

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with **Outstanding Performance** commonly:

- structured their answers in a logical way that led to convincing communication of ideas
- justified biological ideas using clear links
- displayed high level literacy including mastery of biological terminology
- demonstrated a broad biological knowledge and applied it, where relevant, using examples additional to the resource material
- demonstrated a deep understanding of New Zealand ecosystems
- wrote concise answers that directly addressed the questions
- used sophisticated integration of evidence from the resource material that supported their ideas
- avoided repetition and irrelevant content.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- integrated biological ideas and evidence from the resource material
- analysed the resource material and used specific and relevant information to support their answers
- clearly and logically linked key biological ideas to show justification
- used biological terminology and correct definitions
- demonstrated broad biological knowledge.

Candidates who were **not awarded Scholarship** commonly:

- did not answer all questions
- did not answer all parts of each question
- repeated resource material without linking to biological ideas
- used incorrect biological terminology
- excluded key biological terminology from explanations
- included common misconceptions.

For Question One, they:

- wrote about territoriality of lynx and hunting of lynx rather than recognising that habitat destruction by humans was the major influence on population decline
- confused the ideas of K-selection and R-selection
- did not recognise that slow reproductive rate contributed to lynx population decline.

For Question Two, they:

- incorrectly assumed higher amounts of nutrients available in mature lancewood / horoeka would encourage browsing, leading to seed dispersal
- made incorrect links about humans acting as a selection pressure on lancewood / horoeka
- did not understand the role / niche of the moa in the New Zealand ecosystem.

For Question Three, they:

- did not demonstrate a clear understanding of the biological species concept and, therefore, gave very little evidence for the first part of this question
- used the table of characteristics that compared the pārera and mallard to identify differences rather than acknowledge the extensive overlap in all characteristics.